

The chairs of the Tokyo Donors' Conference—Japan, the European Union, Norway, and the United States—need to find more effective ways to convince both sides to return to the bargaining table. There is no other way to end this conflict. The longer it takes to resume a process of good faith negotiations, the more responsibility the LTTE and the Government will bear for the needless deaths of innocent civilians.

REMEMBERING MUNIR SAID THALIB

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we remember the life and work of Munir Said Thalib, Indonesia's foremost human rights defender, who on September 7, 2004, was fatally poisoned while on an airplane flight to the Netherlands where he planned to continue his legal studies. This despicable crime, in which the Indonesian Intelligence Service has been implicated, had repercussions throughout Asia and around the world and has particularly serious implications for Indonesia.

Munir was an outstanding human rights advocate best known as a founder and director of the highly respected Commission for "Disappeared" Persons and Victims of Violence. He was working as the director of the Jakarta-based human rights group Imparsial before his murder. In 2000, Munir received the Right Livelihood Award "for his courage and dedication in fighting for human rights and the civilian control of the military in Indonesia."

Two years after his untimely and tragic death, the Indonesian Government has failed to properly investigate and prosecute those responsible. Despite the conviction of an airline pilot for his role in the murder, the police and Attorney General's office continue to ignore the evidence and recommendations of a Presidential fact-finding team that has implicated senior Indonesian intelligence officers and airline officials in the crime. President Yudhoyono has rightly described this matter as a test case for whether Indonesia has changed from its authoritarian past. At this point, it appears that a culture of impunity remains deeply embedded in Indonesian society.

The fiscal year 2007 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill that was reported by the Appropriations Committee on July 10, 2006, includes my amendment which requires a report on progress on human rights in Indonesia, including the investigation of the murder of Munir Said Thalib. If the Indonesia Government aspires to be seen as one that respects human rights and the rule of law, which is fundamental to any democracy, it is essential that whoever was responsible for ordering and carrying out this heinous crime be identified and brought to justice.

REMEMBERING ANN RICHARDS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Governor Ann Richards, who died last week at the age of 73.

Humor is one of the chief democratic virtues. A good joke can wipe out dif-

ferences of rank, bring down the self-exalted, and join audience and speaker in a common bond. A sense of humor is an especially priceless quality in a political leader because it exposes the pretensions that always seem to accumulate around the state, and it reminds us that we are still a people's government.

Governor Richards is being remembered this week as an innovative leader, a pioneer for women, and, I might add, one tough cookie. But we should also take a moment, on the occasion of her sad death, to remember something else we have lost—her wonderful sense of humor. And if we could take a positive thing from her passing, it might be that we have had the opportunity to remind ourselves of all the many times she made us laugh. We all remember Ann's remark that "Ginger Rogers did everything Fred Astaire did—she just did it backwards and in high heels." And we all treasured her earthiness—for instance, when she allowed that she regretted her 1994 election defeat "Oh, for about five seconds."

Of course, there have always been people who have found a sense of humor threatening, especially when it is in their idea of the wrong hands. As Texas columnist Molly Ivins said of the Governor, "I mean, with Ann it was a real problem. . . . They just did not know what to make of her. . . . If they realize that a woman can be funny, I think men are afraid that tone can be used against them. And they don't like it."

The truth is that Ann Richards—the first woman to be elected Governor of Texas in her own right—had to fight against bias her whole political life. At every stage, she was more than a match. In the early 1960s, Ann was forced to help found the North Texas Democratic Women "basically to allow us to have something substantive to do." And asked at the end of her long career why she had entered politics, Ann replied: "I did not want my tombstone to read, 'She kept a really clean house.'" Instead of accepting others' ideas of what was best for her, Governor Richards opened her own path—and everyone who follows her, in Texas and in every other State, owes her thanks.

But there is another danger to humor. As she wrote in her 1989 autobiography, "I was always worried because there is a general feeling that if you're funny you're not serious." That pressure is particularly acute for a politician. But Ann taught us all that laughter draws on great honesty and insight—that depth and humor can exist in the same spirit. "Humor is a powerful tool," she continued. "It clears the air. Once you laugh, your mind is opened and then you are able to hear the other things that are being said to you."

Governor Richards showed her depth in 4 years of successful policies in Texas. She presided over the dramatic growth of her State's economy, and her audits on the State bureaucracy saved taxpayers \$6 billion. She reformed

Texas's prison system, pursued a truly egalitarian policy for education funding, and saw a dramatic increase in student achievement scores on her watch. And through all of her success, Governor Richards never forgot the prejudice she had faced—and so she worked tirelessly to include members of marginalized groups in the people's work. Ann Richards appointed more women and minorities than any of her predecessors. She was responsible for the first crime victim on the State Criminal Justice Board, the first disabled member of the human services board, the first teacher to chair the State board of education, the first Black regent at the University of Texas, and the first Black and female officers in the elite Texas Rangers.

And while many ex-politicians have a habit of fading into the sunset, Ann remained a dynamo. She worked in international law, taught at Texas and Brandeis, continued to write, and campaigned for members of her party across the country, right to the end—in fact, I am sure many of us in this Chamber owe Ann thanks for her help on the stump. What Ann accomplished after leaving the Governor's mansion could have been a full career for someone less ambitious or full of life. And her 2004 book had an exceedingly apt title—"I'm Not Slowing Down," a phrase that embodied the energy and Texas doggedness we loved in her.

It took cancer to stop Ann Richards. And though she has gone, we will remember her as one of the great political characters of the 20th century. We will miss her boldness and her silver tongue. But we will remember what she taught us over a five-decade life in politics: Jokes don't just make us laugh. They force us to see more clearly and sympathize more fully; and they bring us a little closer to the state of equality that is the whole reason our Nation is.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to former Governor of Texas Ann Richards. She was a role model, an inspiration, and an abiding friend to me and to my husband. On Wednesday, she passed away in her home, surrounded by loved ones. I will truly miss her warm friendship, her guidance, and her inimitable sense of humor.

Ann Richards blazed a trail for women everywhere, and she did so without ever losing her spirit, grace, optimism, charm, and sense that we can all build a better world.

She was wonderful about giving guidance. She always made sure to take the time to give advice to new women candidates. When I was considering a run for the Senate, she told me that it would be hard, it would be tough, but if you want to make a difference, then you need to put yourself out there. And she was right.

She was born in 1933 in Lakeview, TX, to Ona and Cecil Willis. The family